

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bechmann et al Confirmation No: To be assigned

Serial No.: To be assigned Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Filed: November 27, 2001 Examiner: To Be Assigned

For: Automated Mechanical Stress Assay for Screening Cleaning Ingredients

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows (a marked up version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.21 is attached hereto):

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13, 15-21, 28 and 30-48.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers:

26. (Amended.) The method of claim 24, wherein the force is selected from magnetic force, electromagnetic force, electrical force, mechanical force and combinations thereof.

29. (Amended.) A device suitable for testing cleaning effect of a composition, said device comprising:

- (a) at least one container having a volume of less than 10 ml,
- (b) at least one body capable of moving inside the container,
- (c) at least one stained surface, preferably a stained fabric and
- (d) means for providing movement of the body relatively to the stained surface.

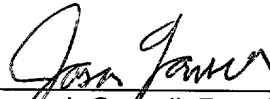
REMARKS

This amendment is submitted to cancel claims in order to reduce the filing fee. There is no new matter added, and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 27, 2001



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Sir:

Below is a marked-up version of the amendments made in the accompanying amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Unchanged.) A method for testing the cleaning effect of a compound or compositions containing said compound, said method comprising:
 - (a) preparing a liquid sample of less than 10 ml comprising said compound,
 - (b) applying said liquid sample to a stained surface,
 - (c) applying mechanical stress to said stained surface by contacting said stained surface with a body present in said liquid sample,
 - (d) evaluating the cleaning effect of applying solution and mechanical stress on said stained surface.
2. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 1, wherein the test compound is selected from the group consisting of enzymes, enzyme stabilizers, enzyme inhibitors, enzyme enhancers, enzyme co-factors, builders, builder systems, bleach systems, bleach activators, metal-containing bleach catalyst, optical brighteners, nonionic -, anionic -, cationic -, zwitterionic and amphoteric surfactants, fabric softening agents, softening clays, clay flocculants, dye-transfer inhibiting agents, polymeric soil release agents, clay soil removal agents, anti-soil redeposition agents, polymeric dispersing systems, chelating agents, alkoxylated polycarboxylates, perfumes, perfume systems, carrier systems, dyes and pigments, fabric care agents and color care agents.
3. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 2, wherein the enzymes are alkaline.

4. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid sample has a volume selected from 5 - 95% of the volume of 3.7 ml, 320 µl, 160 µl, and 14 µl, respectively.

5. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 1, wherein the surface is an inorganic surface selected from metal, ceramic, glass, enamel concrete, rock, marble, gypsum and composite combinations thereof or an organic surface selected from plastic, rubber, wood, paper, leather, fur, paint and fabric.

6. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 5, wherein the surface is a fabric.

7. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 6, wherein the fabric is made from natural plant fibers, animal based fibres or synthetic fibres or combinations thereof.

8. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 7, wherein the fabric is woven or non-woven.

9. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 8, wherein the fabric is a cellulose containing fabric selected from textiles and tissues or an animal based fabric.

10. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 1, wherein the stain comprises a traceable compound or composition associated to the surface.

11. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 10, wherein the stain is a traceable compound or composition associated to the surface.

12. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 10, wherein the traceable compound is selected from light absorbing dyes, fluorescent dyes, radioactive compounds, reactive compounds and catalysts or activators capable of performing measurable interaction with substrates.

14. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 10, wherein the traceable compound is in a soiling composition.

22. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 1, wherein the mechanical stress is applied by moving the body against the surface.

23. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 22, wherein the liquid sample applied to the stained surface by moving the body against the surface and depositing liquid sample adhering to the moving body.

24. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 23, wherein the body is moved by repeatedly applying a force to the body.

25. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 24, wherein the force is an oscillating force selected from randomly oscillating force and periodically oscillating force.

26. (Amended.) The method of claim 24 [and 25], wherein the force is selected from magnetic force, electromagnetic force, electrical force, mechanical force and combinations thereof.

27. (Unchanged.) The method of claim 26, wherein the force is a magnetic force applied to a magnetizable body by moving a magnet relative to the container containing the body.

29. (Amended.) A device suitable for testing cleaning effect of a composition, said device comprising:

- (a) at least one container having a volume of less than 10 ml[, preferably less than 2 ml, most preferably less than 0.2 ml],
- (b) at least one body capable of moving inside the container,
- (c) at least one stained surface, preferably a stained fabric and
- (d) means for providing movement of the body relatively to the stained surface.